

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

EASEMENT

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Marley Neck Rosenwald School

other names Halls Memorial United Methodist Church Hall (AA-2066)

2. Location

street & number 7780 Solley Road

☐ not for publication

city or town Glen Burnie

☐ vicinity

state Maryland

code MD

county Anne Arundel

code 003

zip code

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).



Signature of certifying official/Title

5-13-05

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Marley Neck Rosenwald School (AA-2066)

Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

1

Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Rosenwald Schools of Anne Arundel County, 1921-1932

### number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education-school

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rosenwald School

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

AA-2066  
Marley Neck Rosenwald School

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Section 7 Page 1

### Description Summary:

The former Marley Neck School is located in a rural setting in northeast Anne Arundel County. Now used as a church hall, the building sits immediately south of the Hall Memorial United Methodist Church. This rectangular-shaped frame building has been altered but its form and fenestration pattern readily identify it as a Rosenwald School. The building's owners are working in cooperation with Anne Arundel County and the Arundel Community Development Services to restore the building in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

### General Description:

The Marley Neck School is located in northeast Anne Arundel County, on the west side of Solley Road, near the intersection with Nabbs Creek Road. It stands directly south of the Hall Memorial United Methodist Church and currently functions as a Sunday School and meeting hall for that church's congregation. The church, cemetery, and school share a 4.65 acre parcel of land. Dense stands of mature trees surround the perimeter of the lot, with a few individual trees located within the yard. (The church building does not contribute to the significance of the resource; its construction date falls outside the period of significance.)

Measuring approximately 68 x 20', the Marley Neck School is a long, narrow, side-gable frame building. Walls are sheathed in sections of roughly 4' long clapboards and rest on a low concrete pier foundation. The low-pitched roof features open eaves with exposed rafter ends. Mitered verge boards accent the gable ends.

Window openings, a defining characteristic of Rosenwald Schools, have been altered, but will be restored as part of the planned rehabilitation work. Originally the front (east) façade contained a bay of seven closely set sash windows on either side of a centrally located entrance. The front façade now contains six pairs (three on either side of the door) of small, modern, sliding sash windows utilizing original openings (reduced vertically in size), and the locations of the other original window openings are discernible in the infill and framing. The front door appears original, featuring six lights above three recessed horizontal panels. A bracketed shed-roof door hood protects the doorway and step below and is an original feature. Two small sash windows flank the doorway and are currently covered over.

Sections of wall cladding have been replaced on the rear façade. Three original windows survive. The remaining openings are infilled or replaced with modern sliding sash types like those found on the principal façade. The back door features six recessed panels and appears

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

AA-2066  
Marley Neck Rosenwald School

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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original to the building. The porch hood, similar to that protecting the front entrance is original though partially rebuilt.

Other openings include a louvered ventilator window in the upper gable end, and the north wall contains a pair of sliding glass windows identical to those found in other parts of the building. A small counter is attached to the base of the window. A 5'x7' poured concrete deck surrounds the window and counter. This arrangement allowed refreshments to be served from inside the building.

The building's interior has been renovated and except for some door and window surrounds, retains little surviving historic fabric.

The Marley Neck School is structurally sound but in need of repair. Plans for rehabilitation have been submitted to the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office.

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

**Previous documentation on files (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record  
# \_\_\_\_\_

**Area of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education)

Ethnic Heritage (Black)

Social History

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1927-1954

**Significant Dates**

1927

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

African-American

**Architect/Builder**Fox Plan variant of Julius Rosenwald Fund plan  
"2 Room Shop B"**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Anne Arundel County Historic Preservation Planning  
Office



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AA-2066  
Marley Neck Rosenwald School

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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Note: This individual nomination follows a Multiple Property Documentation Form titled *Rosenwald Schools in Anne Arundel County (1921-1932)*. Please refer to this document for a detailed history and significance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund School Building Program and background on African-American education in Anne Arundel County prior to desegregation.

### Summary Statement of Significance:

The Marley Neck School meets Registration Requirements specified in the Multiple Property Nomination titled *Rosenwald Schools in Anne Arundel County (1921-1932)*.

Built in 1927, the Marley Neck School is significant as an example of a Rosenwald School and as such is affiliated with what is considered the most important advance in African-American education in the southern states prior to desegregation. Rosenwald Schools were constructed with financial and technical assistance provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund which was a private foundation named for the Chicago entrepreneur who directed the booming growth of Sears, Roebuck & Company in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Between 1917 and 1932, the Julius Rosenwald Fund helped erect 5,357 schools for African-American students in the rural south. Rosenwald Schools were built according to plans provided or approved by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. These state-of-the-art plans were cost-efficient and embodied the latest educational design theories. In Maryland, 292 were constructed with 23 built in Anne Arundel County. Marley Neck is one of 10 Rosenwald Schools to survive in Anne Arundel County.

### Narrative History and Historic Context

The Marley Neck School at Hall Memorial United Methodist Church is an architecturally and socially significant example of a Rosenwald School. As such it is associated with a landmark era in black education prior to Desegregation following the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education*. The importance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund's School Building Program to black education in the era of segregation and legal barrier known collectively known as "Jim Crow" can not be overstated.

Rosenwald Schools were built with matching funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which was a private foundation created by and named for the Chicago entrepreneur who directed the booming growth of Sears, Roebuck and Company in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Julius Rosenwald's involvement in African American education was a result of his admiration of Booker T. Washington. Rosenwald was deeply impressed by Washington's climb from poverty to educational leadership, and after meeting him in 1911 Rosenwald became active in Washington's Tuskegee Institute. In 1917 he established the Julius Rosenwald Fund and initiated his personal campaign to improve the quality of

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AA-2066  
Marley Neck Rosenwald School

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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education for rural blacks in the South. Between 1917 and 1932 the Rosenwald Fund helped build over 5,357 schools for African American students in 17 southern states at a total cost of \$28,408,502 (Embree and Waxman: 1949). In Maryland 292 Rosenwald Schools were constructed with 23 built in Anne Arundel County.

Rosenwald Schools were principally built according to plans provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. These simple and efficient designs were developed by Rosenwald Fund administrator, S. L. Smith, with additional input from educational theorists. Rosenwald Plans represented the state-of-the-art in school architecture and were provided free of charge to Boards of Education. The Rosenwald Fund required strict adherence to building plans. Any deviation from the standardized plans had to be approved prior to construction or financial support would be withdrawn. Regular progress photographs were required to assure schools met the high standards the Fund demanded. Rosenwald Fund plans were so superior that they were also used to build more than 15,000 white schools which had no financial relationship to the fund (Embree and Waxman: 1949).

The School Building Program was done in conjunction with the Boards of Education of the various states and with contributions from the African-American and, in theory, the white community. The state and county bore the majority of the cost and agreed to maintain the new building as part of the public school systems. The amount contributed by the Rosenwald Fund varied depending upon the size of the school. Contributions generally ranged from a minimum of \$200 for a one-teacher school to \$6,000 for a twelve-teacher school.

Out of the 23 Rosenwald Schools built in Anne Arundel County, 18 were a two-teacher school form known as the Fox Plan. This plan is named for Anne Arundel County School Superintendent, George Fox who in association with S. L. Smith, developed this variation on the Fund's two-teacher school plan. The George Fox Plan is a variation on the Shop Plan-B. In the Fox Plan, the laboratory and shop are omitted and the space combined and used as a second class room. Most of the schools constructed cost between \$3,300 and \$4,300 with the least expensive being the school at Annapolis Neck, which cost \$1,700 (Rosenwald Fund Archives).

The Marley Neck School, constructed in 1927 at a cost of \$4,300, was the most expensive Rosenwald School in Anne Arundel County. It is built according to the two-teacher Fox Plan. According to Julius Rosenwald Fund records at Fisk University, Anne Arundel County provided \$3,000 toward the construction cost. The Rosenwald Fund contributed \$500 with \$800 coming from the African-American community. The Marley Neck School was the only Rosenwald School built in Anne Arundel County where the African-American community contributed more than the Rosenwald Fund. Although white citizens contributed indirectly through taxes, no individual donation was made by a white patron for this or any other Rosenwald School in Anne Arundel County, despite

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Marley Neck Rosenwald School

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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Rosenwald's belief that the white community should contribute to the construction costs. (Rosenwald Fund Archives).

The Marley Neck School stands on land donated by the neighboring Halls Memorial United Methodist Church. This situation was typical, as black churches frequently provided the land for school construction. Churches in Maryland, especially Methodist churches, were the chief sponsors of schools prior to the Rosenwald School Building Program (Brown:1988).

By the late 1920s the Rosenwald Fund was withdrawing its support from the construction of small wooden schools, and was instead encouraging the construction of large, brick, consolidated buildings. Anne Arundel County Superintendent George Fox initiated the consolidation of white schools, but for reasons that are not clear, did not pursue this course with African-American schools. Anne Arundel County continued to submit funding applications for one and two-teacher schools, but these were mostly rejected.

A 1929 letter from J. Walter Huffington at the Maryland Department of Education implores S. L. Smith to continue funding small schools. In this letter found in the Rosenwald Fund archives at Fisk University Huffington writes:

"I urgently request that you intercede for us with the Fund and request not to cut us down on one and two teacher schools. I appreciate the funds attitude toward larger buildings, but if we are cut down on the small schools just not it simply means that we will have to construct a number of negro schools which are not suitable for the instruction of children."

Huffington's protestations were at least partially rewarded as schools at Galesville, Furnace Branch and Severn (Queenstown) were all constructed after this letter. These represent the last Rosenwald Schools constructed in Anne Arundel County. The Julius Rosenwald Fund School Building Program ceased operation soon after the death of Julius Rosenwald in 1932 and the construction of African-American schools in Anne Arundel County came to abrupt halt.

David S. Jenkin's 1941 Master's thesis indicates neglect of African-American schools in the post-Rosenwald era. In his then-current analysis of the condition of black schools, Jenkins reported that 23 of the 32 African-American schools were "modern" Rosenwald buildings. It is interesting that he uses the term "modern" even though by this time these schools were between 10 and 20 years old. Of the remaining 10 schools he reports 6 were in unsatisfactory condition. At the time of Jenkin's thesis, only three African-American schools post-dated the Rosenwald Fund, of which one was rented and another a Works Progress Administration initiative.



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Marley Neck Rosenwald School

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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In Anne Arundel County, as in many communities where the Julius Rosenwald Fund School Building Program operated, the seed money and technical assistance provided by the Rosenwald Fund advanced African-American education in a manner not equaled until the end of segregation.

The Marley Neck School building became moribund following the integration of schools. In a deed dated January 19, 1960, Anne Arundel County conveyed the Marley Neck Elementary School building and its associated property to the Hall Methodist Church. Since that time it has served as a Sunday school building and community hall.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Marley Neck Rosenwald School

Anne Arundel County, Maryland  
County and State

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### Major Bibliographical References

Philip L. Brown, A Century of Separate But Equal": Education in Anne Arundel County, Vantage Press, New York, NY (1988)

Edwin R. Embree and Julia Waxman, Investment in People: The Story of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, Harper and Brothers, New York, NY (1949)

David S. Jenkins, *A History of Colored Education in Anne Arundel County*, Master's Thesis, University of Maryland (1941)

Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, Special Collections Library, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.

Donna M. Ware, *Education in Anne Arundel County: An Historic Context*, unpublished manuscript, (1989), on file at Anne Arundel County Office of Environmental & Cultural Resources, Annapolis, Maryland.

Marley Neck Rosenwald School (AA-2066)  
Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.65 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1   8	3   6   4   8   0   7	4   3   3   5   9   3   9	3							
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing				
2					4						

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sherri M. Marsh  
Organization Anne Arundel County Office of Environmental & Cultural Resources date January 2003  
street & number 2664 Riva Road telephone 410-222-7441  
city or town Annapolis state Maryland zip code 21401

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Trustees of Hall Memorial United Methodist Church  
street & number 7780 Solley Road telephone  
city or town Glen Burnie state Maryland zip code 21060

**Paperwork Reduction Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

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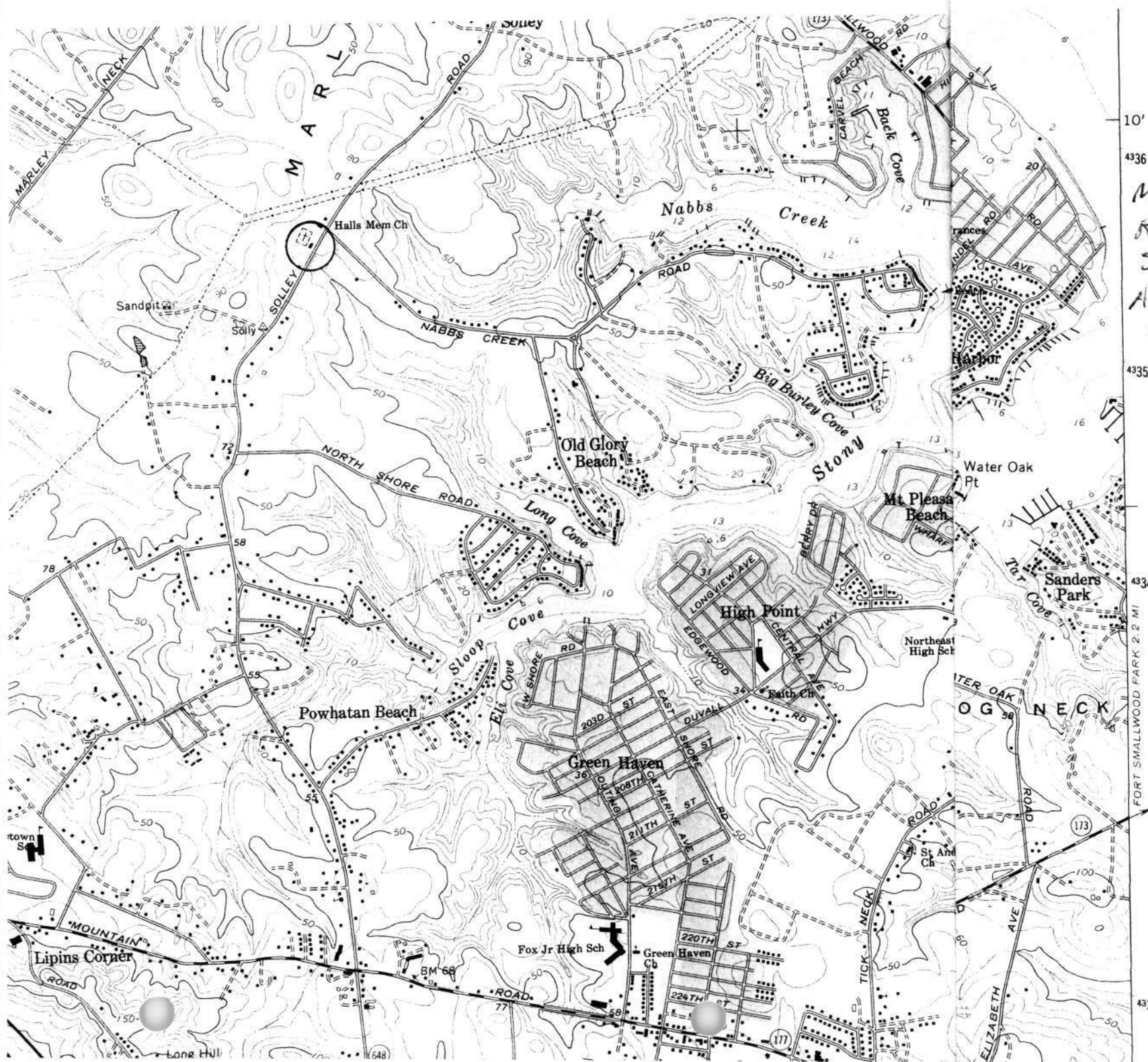
\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

### Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary is the 4.65 acre parcel as described in Anne Arundel County Land Records, Liber 207, Folio 32 and shown on Anne Arundel County tax map 10, block 18, parcel 372.

### Boundary Justification:

This boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the resource.



AA-2066

MARLEY NECK  
ROSENWALD  
SCHOOL

ANNE ARUNDEL  
COUNTY  
MARYLAND

18-364807-  
4335939

4332000m N.





AA- 2066

MARLEY NECK ROSENWALD SCHOOL

Glen Burnie ANNE ARUNDEL, COUNTY MD

Photo by SHERRI MARSH

DECEMBER 2002

CAMERA FACING NW

Photo 1 of 4



AA-2066

MARLEY NECK ROSENWALD SCHOOL

Glen Burnie, Anne Arundel Co. MD

Photo by Sherri MARSH

DECEMBER 2002

Camera facing SW

photo 2 of 4





AA-2066

MARLEY NECK ROSENWALD SCHOOL

Glen Burnie, Anne Arundel County, MARYLAND

Photo by SHERRI MARSH

DECEMBER 2002

CAMERA FACING South

Photo 3 of 4



AA-2066

MARLENE NECK ROSENWALD SCHOOL  
Glen Buena, Anne Arundel

Photo by SHERRI MARSH

DECEMBER 2002

CAMERA FACING SE

Photo 4 of 4

## EASEMENT

AA-2066

Built 1927

Marley Neck School

(Hall Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church Hall)

Solley community, Glen Burnie vicinity

Private

Built in 1927, the Marley Neck School is significant as an example of a Rosenwald School, and as such represents a landmark era in black education in the period before federal support of local education. Rosenwald Schools were built with matching funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which was a private foundation named for the Chicago entrepreneur who directed the booming growth of Sears, Roebuck & Company in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Between 1917 and 1932, the Rosenwald Fund helped build over 5,300 schools for blacks in the rural south. Approximately 292 were built in Maryland. Of that number 24 were constructed in Anne Arundel County. Marley Neck School is one of only five known surviving Anne Arundel County examples.

This school, as with all Rosenwald Schools, was built according to a standardized plan provided by the Rosenwald Fund. These cost and space efficient plans were developed for the Fund by leading educational experts and represented state of the art designs. As a result they were often employed in the construction of contemporary white schools and in schools after the Fund ceased operation.

**AA-2066**

**Built 1927**

**Marley Neck School  
(Hall Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church Hall)  
Solley community, Glen Burnie vicinity  
Private**

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): architecture; education

Resource Type:

Category Type: Building

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): school, church hall

Known Design Source: *Community School Plans*, published by the Julius Rosenwald Fund



# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-2066

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

EASEMENT

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Marley Neck School (preferred)

and/or common Hall Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church Hall

### 2. Location

street & number 7780 Solley Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Glen Burnie ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Hall Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church

street & number 7780 Solley Road telephone no.:

city, town Glen Burnie state and zip code: Maryland 21060

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber 207

street & number Franklin Street folio 32

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. AA-2066

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☐ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Marley Neck School located on the west side of Solley Road, near the intersection with Nabbs Creek Road. It stands directly south of Hall Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church and currently functions as a Sunday School building and meeting hall for that church's congregation. The church and school share a 4.65 acre parcel of land. Heavy stands of mature trees surround the perimeter of the lot, with a few individual trees located within the church and school yard.

Measuring approximately 68' x 20', the Marley Neck School is a long, narrow, side-gable frame building. Walls are sheathed in sections of roughly 4' long clapboards and rest on a low concrete pier foundation. The low-pitched roof features open eaves with exposed rafter ends, and mitered verge boards accenting the gable ends.

Window openings, generally a defining characteristic of Rosenwald Schools, are significantly altered. Originally, the front (east) façade contained a bay of seven closely-set sash windows on either side of the centrally-located entrance. In addition, a smaller sash window immediately flanked the doorway. All front window openings are currently either enclosed or in reduced size. The front façade now contains six pairs (three on either side of the door) of small, modern, sliding sash windows. The front door appears original. It features six lights above three recessed horizontal panels. A small shed-roof porch hood, supported by large, scrolled brackets, protects the doorway, and the concrete step below.

Alterations to the rear façade are also extensive. Large sections of wall cladding have been replaced and most windows have been infilled or altered. Two windows remain. The sash window located immediately adjacent the door may be original. The other is a modern sliding window like that found in the main façade. The back door features six recessed panels, and is possibly original to the building. A partially rebuilt porch hood, similar to that found on the front protects it and the concrete steps below.

A small louvered ventilator window is located in the upper part of the gable ends. Wall cladding has failed in areas and is replaced by plywood boards. The north end contains a pair of sliding glass windows identical to those found throughout the rest of the building. A small counter has been installed directly beneath it. A poured concrete deck, measuring approximately 5'x'7' is located directly adjacent this window opening. This arrangement allows refreshments to be served from inside the buildings.

The Marley Neck School remains in fair condition, but repairs need to be made to prevent further deterioration. The interior is altered: it consists of one large room partitioned at the south end for a kitchen and bathrooms.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. AA-2066

Period	Areas of Significance----Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) (recreation)

Specific dates	1927	Builder/Architect	Rosenwald Community School Plan D			
Check: Applicable Criteria:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D		
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
Level of Significance:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input type="checkbox"/> local			

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### Marley Neck School and the Julius Rosenwald Fund

The Marley Neck School at Hall Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church is an architecturally significant example of a Rosenwald School design, and as such represents a landmark era in black education in the period before federal support of local education. Rosenwald Schools were built with matching funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which was a private foundation created by and named for the Chicago entrepreneur who directed the booming growth of Sears, Roebuck and Company in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Between 1917 and 1932 the Rosenwald Fund helped build over 5,300 schools for blacks in the rural South. Approximately 292 Rosenwald Schools were built in Maryland, of that number 24 were constructed in Anne Arundel County.<sup>1</sup> Built in 1927 at a cost of \$4,300 Marley Neck School was the most expensive Rosenwald School constructed in Anne Arundel County. This two-teacher school is a variation of the Rosenwald design known as *Community School Plan D*. George Fox, Superintendent of Anne Arundel County Schools (1916-1946) developed this variant in cooperation with architects at the Rosenwald Fund.

By deed dated January 19, 1960 Anne Arundel County conveyed the Marley Neck Elementary school building and its associated property to Hall Methodist Church. Since that time it has been used as a social hall and Sunday school.

### The Julius Rosenwald Fund

The importance of the Rosenwald Fund's building program to black education can not be overstated. School plans were developed for the Fund by leading educational experts and distributed to the various locales. These state of the art plans reflected the latest theory in spatial organization, and placed a premium on sanitation and ease of maintenance. As a result, these plans were sometimes employed in the construction of contemporary white schools, and in schools built after the Fund ceased to finance school construction. The impact of the Rosenwald Fund extends beyond black education and the time frame in which it operated.

## 8.1 Significance (continued)

Julius Rosenwald (1862-1932) stands out as one of America's most notable businessmen and philanthropists. At age twenty-five, this son of German Jewish immigrants acquired partial ownership in Sears, Roebuck and Company. Under his management the company became a mail-order merchandising phenomenon. Rosenwald's philanthropy kept well apace of his amassing fortune and, according to estimates, by the time of his death in 1932 he had given away between \$60,000,000 and \$70,000,000. More than \$20,000,000 of this went to black causes.<sup>2</sup>

According to his biographers, Rosenwald was a great admirer of Booker T. Washington, and was deeply impressed by Washington's climb from poverty to educational leadership. After meeting Booker T. Washington and subsequent visits to the south, Rosenwald, appalled by the condition of southern blacks, made African-American causes in general, and black education in particular, a foremost concern. Rosenwald established an independent foundation with full time administrators to manage his charities. The work of the Julius Rosenwald Fund in southern education stressed four programs: the provision of library service, the education of teachers, the development of centers of higher learning, and foremost, the school building program.

The school building program was done in conjunction with the Boards of Education of the various southern states. Rosenwald was adamant that his efforts only inspire and supplement state initiatives, not replace them. Rosenwald encouraged government and community to work together to address social problems. Before granting financial assistance, the county had to agree to build the school in accordance with plans and physical specifications established by the Fund and agree to maintain the building as a regular part of the school system.

Ideally, a Rosenwald school represented a common effort by the given Board of Education, and both the white and African-American communities. The state and county always bore most of the cost of the building and had to agree to maintain the new building as a regular part of the public-school system. The white community was solicited for financial contributions, or gifts of land and supplies. The black community also made gifts of money, labor and supplies. Records indicate that in Anne Arundel County costs were born entirely by the state, the black community and the Rosenwald Fund, with no support coming from the white community.<sup>3</sup> Marley Neck's \$4,300 cost was shared as follows: \$3,000 from Anne Arundel County, \$800 from the African-American community, \$500 from the Rosenwald Fund.

The contributions of the Fund ranged from a minimum of \$200 for a one-teacher school to \$2,600 for a six-teacher building. While at the high school level, the Fund contributed up to \$6,000 for a twelve-teacher structure. In terms of percentages, the Rosenwald Fund's contribution toward the total cost of a school was comparatively small. The Fund, however, provided more than money and architectural plans. Rosenwald's reputation and record of accomplishment secured the trust of the African-American community who, knowing their resources would be used directly for the good of their neighborhood, were inspired to give money and labor. The result was a donation of resources Boards of Education felt compelled to accept. The Rosenwald Fund served not only as a funding source, but also as an important mediator between the black community and the generally all-white Boards of Education.



## 8.2 Significance (continued)

Between 1917 and 1929, about sixty percent of all schools constructed with assistance from the Rosenwald Fund were of the one- and two-teacher type. Marley Neck is an example of the two-room type. After 1929, in an acceptance of the trend toward school consolidation, funding was gradually withdrawn from small schools and emphasis switched to larger buildings. By the time the Fund's school building program ended in 1932, it had helped to build 5,357 public schools, industrial shops, and teacher's homes in 883 counties of 15 southern states at a total cost of \$28,408,502.

Rosenwald Schools

In 1920 the Rosenwald Fund established an office in Nashville, under the direction of S. L. Smith, an architect with experience in school administration. Smith established an architectural department to research and draw school designs. The input of leading educational theorists was solicited in developing school plans. Rosenwald school plans represented the state-of-the-art in American school architecture.

Designs were simple and efficient, and omitted corridors where possible to save on costs and maximize useable space. Buildings were one-story in height, both because of cost consciousness, and to facilitate evacuation in the event of fire. The buildings were generally sided with weatherboard, nailed over diagonal substrate. Exterior color schemes were white trimmed in gray, gray trimmed in white, or nut brown trimmed in white or cream.

Since there was seldom electricity available, design and placement maximized natural light. Groupings of tall double-hung sash windows are characteristic of all Rosenwald designs. Buildings were oriented with the points of the compass and the plan designed so that every class room would receive either east or west light. Color schemes, seat arrangements and even window shades were specified to make the fullest use of sun light.<sup>4 5</sup>

The Fund demanded that interiors not be left unpainted. This was for sanitary, aesthetic, and maintenance reasons, but mainly because "It will materially increase the amount of light in the classroom." The Fund permitted only two interior paint schemes.

Color Scheme No. 1: Cream ceiling, buff walls and walnut wainscoting or dado

Color Scheme No. 2: Ivory cream ceiling, light gray walls and walnut stain wainscoting or dado

Contractors were warned not to mix lamp black with white paint in order to make gray as such a mixture would reflect very little light. As a result of these precautions, Smith noted proudly that all Rosenwald designs provided natural light well in excess of the minimums proposed by the National Education Association's Committee on Schoolhouse Planning and Construction.

## 8.3 Significance (continued)

Interiors featured a sub-floor topped by oiled wooden flooring, wooden tongue-and-groove wainscoting and plaster walls. Desk arrangements were provided. For example, in a 22' x 30' classroom, desks were to be arranged in five rows of nine desks. Each room had a blackboard set at a scientifically determined height. Because chalk dust was known to be a health detriment, chalkboard designs included a chalk trough with a wire net covering. This prevented erasers from absorbing and spreading chalk dust.

Many requirements were associated with the placement and maintenance of privies. The same is true regarding the drinking water supply system.

Rosenwald Fund administrators strictly enforced design guidelines. Regular construction progress reports and photographs were required, and failure to meet deadlines or guidelines resulted in the forfeiture of Rosenwald support.

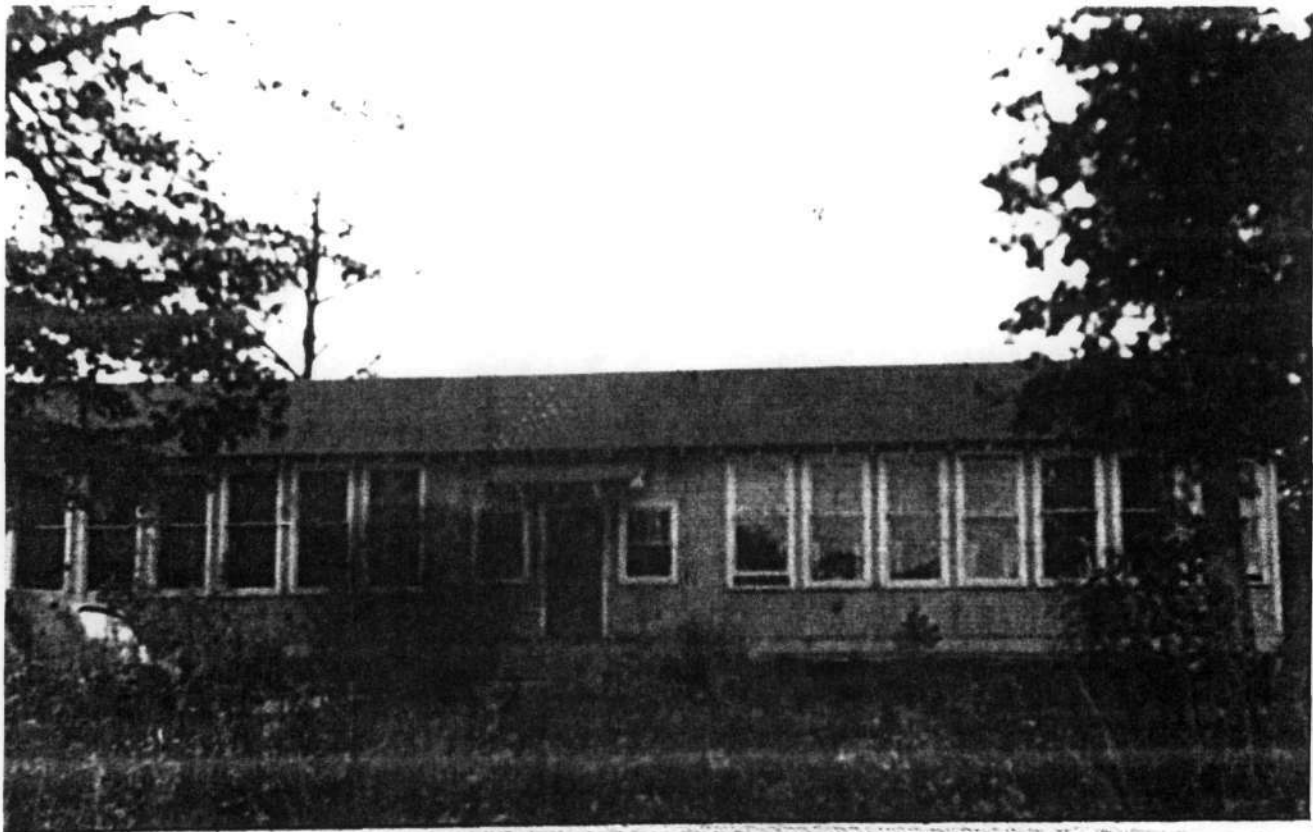
Summary

The Julius Rosenwald Fund's school building program officially ended in 1932. By that time almost 15,000 teachers were instructing over 650,000 black children in 5,357 Rosenwald-sponsored schools throughout the South. The buildings could accommodate more than two-fifths of the African-American children enrolled in school. The number of buildings aided by the Fund exceeded the total number of schools of every sort that existed for blacks in the southern states at the beginning of the Fund's program. The value of these schools in 1932 was more than twice that of all black rural-school property at the beginning of the effort in 1917. One in every ten Rosenwald schools provided high school-level instruction. African-American high school enrollment in the South increased from few thousand in 1920 to approximately 125,000 in 1931, an increase directly attributable to the Rosenwald building campaign.<sup>6</sup>

Rosenwald schools set an example of beauty, efficiency and sanitation. During this era they set the standard for all school construction; Rosenwald plans were used for more than 15,000 white schools which otherwise had no relation to the Fund. The success of the Fund was not so much in the amount it contributed or the number of schools it helped to build, but in intangibles that can not be measured. Mr. Rosenwald's biographers believed the Fund's success was primarily expressed in the effect of increased literacy in the lives of African-Americans, through the opportunities that education provided.<sup>7</sup> Arguably, the Rosenwald Fund's school building program represents the most important movement in black education prior to the court-ordered desegregation of schools in the 1960s.

## 8.4 Significance (continued)

1938 photograph of Marley Neck School from the collection "Anne Arundel County Schools Insured by Chas. F. Lee & Company". Copy located at Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Code Enforcement, Annapolis, Maryland. Original is located at the Anne Arundel County Free School Museum on Lavall Drive in Davidsonville, Maryland



MARLEY NECK



Survey No AA-2066

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

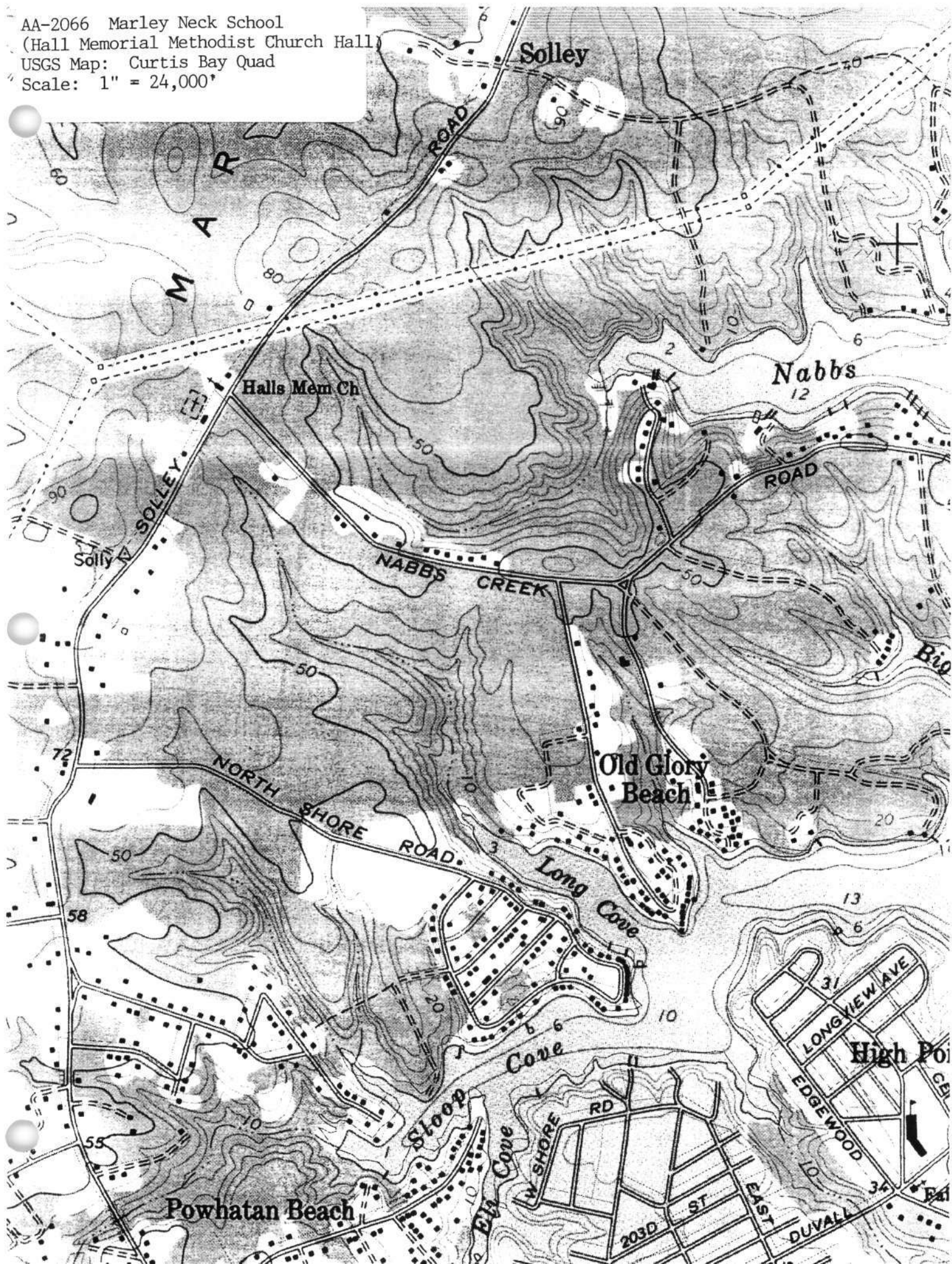
## 10. Geographical Data

state	code	county	code
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**11. Form Prepared by**

city or town      Annapolis      state      MD

AA-2066 Marley Neck School  
(Hall Memorial Methodist Church Hall)  
USGS Map: Curtis Bay Quad  
Scale: 1" = 24,000'





AA-2066

MARLEY NECK SCHOOL (HALL MEMORIAL) CHURCH HALL)

SOLLEY COMMUNITY, GLEN BURNIE VICINITY, ANNE ARUNDEL CO.

PHOTO BY SHERR, MARSH, OCT. 1996

NEGATIVE AT MARYLAND SHPO

FRONT (EAST) ELEVATION

PHOTO 1 OF 2





AA-2066  
MARLEY NECK SCHOOL  
HALL MEMORIAL CHURCH HALL

SOLLEY COMMUNITY, GLEN BURNIE VICINITY  
ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MARYLAND

PHOTO BY Sherri M. Marsh, Oct. 1996

NEG. AT MARYLAND SHPO

REAR (NW) PERSPECTIVE

PHOTO 2 OF 2